

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 DLOS-03 L-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 DOTE-00

EUR-12 OES-03 /061 W

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R 290735Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6378

INFO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE JUNEAU, ALASKA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS JA PLOS

SUBJ: US/JAPAN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 15554

NMFS FOR HARRY RIETZE

FOR MAW FOR CLINGAN

BILATERAL DISCUSSION RECOMMENCED NOV 28, WITH BOTH SIDES
EXPRESSING VIEWS ON POLLOCK, OTHER GROUNDFISH AND HERRING STOCKS
IN EASTERN BERING SEA, PLUS KING AND TANNER CRAB. GENERALLY,
JAPANESE RESPONSE OF US FINFISH VIEWS WAS THAT THESE STOCKS ARE
NOT IN AS BAD CONDITION AS US CLAIMS THEY ARE.

REGARDING POLLOCK, JAPAN STATED THAT SACRIFICE REQUIRED TO REDUCE
FISHERY TO ONE MILLION METRIC TONS, AS REQUESTED BY US, FROM 1.3
MILLION TON CATCH ESTIMATED BY JAPAN IN 1974, IS TOO GREAT. JAPAN
PROPOSED NEW LIMIT OF 1.2 MILLION TONS AS EFFECTIVE SOLUTION.

REGARDING OTHER EASTERN BERING SEA GROUNDFISH, JAPAN SAID US
REQUEST FOR 100,000 TON ANNUAL OVERALL QUOTA IS TOO DRASTIC
AND WOULD MEAN JAPAN WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE FLEET. THEREFORE,
PROPOSAL TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, BUT JAPAN WILL CONSIDER SPECIES-
BY SPECIES QUOTAS AS SUPPORTED BY SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

ON SUBJECT HERRING, JAPAN COUNTERED WITH PROPOSAL FOR TOTAL
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CATCH CEILING EQUIVALENT TO 1971 CATCH (29,000 TONS) WITHOUT

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN TRAWL AND GILLNET FISHERY, AS PROPOSED BY US. REGARDING KING CRAB, JAPAN RECONFIRMED HER DIFFERING LEGAL VIEWS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT INDICATED READINESS TO REACH PRACTICAL SOLUTION. JAPAN REFERRED TO SECTION IN 1972 CRAB AGREEMENT WHICH RECONFIRMED US INTENTION FIRST STATED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN 1964, TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO JAPAN'S LONG-ESTABLISHED KING CRAB FISHERY AND PROPOSED THAT QUOTA BE HELD AT SAME LEVEL OF 700,000 CRABS.

ON TANNER CRAB, JAPAN STRESSED FACT SHE PIONEERED THIS FISHERY AND STOCK UNDENIABLY HEALTHY. REQUESTED THAT QUOTA REMAIN UNCHANGED AT 14 MILLION CRABS. REGARDING INCIDENTAL CATCH- JAPAN STATED THAT ALREADY - AGREED UPON HALIBUT PROTECTION MEASURES WILL ALSO REDUCE INCIDENTAL CATCH OF TANNER CRAB, AND IF MORE PROTECTION NEEDED, JAPAN'S TRAWL GEAR MODIFICATION PROPOSAL INITIALLY MADE AT INPFC MEETING STILL OPEN.

DISCUSSION ON NOV 29 TURNED TO US REQUESTS FOR TIME AND AREA LIMITATIONS ON JAPANESE FISHING IN NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC JAPAN CONCILIATORY, BUT OBVIOUSLY STAGGERED BY SCOPE OF US PROPOSALS, ATTEMPTING TO PROBE FOR GENUINE US REASONS FOR MAKING REQUESTS. JAPAN AGAIN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON SPECIES-BY-SPECIES BASIS, WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO ACTUAL EFFECT OF FISHING UPON SPAWNING STOCKS. JAPAN DID INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO ATTEMPT TO AVOID CONCENTRATIONS OF HALIBUT DURING SPAWNING SEASON AND TO TAKE PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH IN GULF OF ALASKA AT 1971 LEVEL.

REGARDING US REQUEST FOR COMPLETE STOPPAGE OF JAPANESE FISHING OFF CALIF, OREGON AND WASH, JAPAN STATED SHE COULD AGREE NOT TO INCREASE EFFORT IN THAT AREA AND WOULD TRY TO FISH THERE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE CONFLICT WITH US FISHING INTERESTS. HOWEVER, JAPAN FIRMLY OPPOSED TOTAL BAN ON ITS FISHERY.

DISCUSSIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPLORE PROPOSALS WILL CONTINUE TO SATURDAY, NOV 30. NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WILL BEGIN DECEMBER 2 AND WILL BE LIMITED TO SMALL GROUP FROM EACH SIDE.

FYI: JAPANESE COUNTER PROPOSALS WERE NOT UNEXPECTED. WE ANTICIPATE GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON CRABS AND ON NORTHEAST PACIFIC GROUNDFISH ISSUE.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HALIBUT, SHELLFISH, FISHERIES MEETINGS, FISHING AGREEMENTS, FISHING LIMITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO15586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740348-0041
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974111/aaaaaave.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 15554
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/JAPAN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005